Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Work Agenda of the ANPP First Session Reported

FL0704183793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The following report details the work agenda of the first regular session of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], scheduled for June:

Among issues of vital importance to Cuba, the agenda includes the energy program and the work of the People's Councils. In accordance with the order of the day, the ANPP will create permanent commissions and parliamentary friendship groups, and will ratify Council of State decree-law accords. The ANPP plenum will elect the president, vice president, other professional judges and lay personnel of the People's Supreme Court, as well as the attorney general and deputy attorney general of the Republic. The deputies will also be briefed on international activities of the ANPP, and the development of the main programs in the provinces.

Belgian Parliamentarians Meet With ANPP President

FL0804014193 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] A delegation of Belgian parliamentarians, who are visiting Cuba, met today with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. The delegation is from the group of Belgium-Cuban Friendship parliamentarians and is composed of five senators, two deputies, and officers of the Senate. (Johann de Muhl) is head of the delegation.

[Begin (de Muhl) recording, in French with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish, in progress] [Words indistinct] gives the highest level of relations between Cuba and Belgium. [end recording]

The Belgian parliamentarians have been in Cuba since 4 April. They have visited economic, social, and scientific centers of interest in Havana City. Today, in the meeting with ANPP President Alarcon de Quesada, they talked about topics relating to the development of our parliament. The Belgian friends will leave for Belgium on 10 April.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Windward Islands 'Losing Interest' in Unification

FL0804123993 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Time appears to be running out for Windward Island unity. Presidents of the four islands—Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts, and Grenada—are said to be losing interest in union. Secretary of the Regional Constituent Assembly, (Earl Antes), says it is important that the Windward Islands governments set a date for a referendum on unity before the end of the year. Failing that, he says, the concept of unity will become more distant with time and the regional constituent assembly will find itself working twice as hard to get things moving again.

British Caribbean Envoy Pessimistic on Banana Issue

FL0804131093 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Britain's envoy to the Caribbean, Mark Lennox-Boyd, wound up a visit to Guyana yesterday, endorsing Caricom moves toward further unity with Latin America. The British Government recently announced their forgiveness of Guyana's debt and held forth an offer of aid worth about $20 million, but Mr. Lennox-Boyd added he was not optimistic about preferential access for Caribbean bananas. He said although an agreement has been worked out, with strong support from Britain and France, he held out little hope that the protection now retained by the Caribbean banana industry within the European Community would remain in place for very long.

Grenada

Groups Increasing Pressure on Government To Reconsider Divestment Plan

FL0704171093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1643 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, April 6, CANA—Trade unions, opposition parties, and non-governmental development organisations [NGO's] are increasing pressure on the Grenada Government to reconsider its plan to divest some state enterprises.

Trade unionist, Chester Humphrey, spokesman for an anti-privatization coalition that includes 15 trade unions, opposition parties, and NGO's, said the government should put the issue of privatization to the people in a referendum. Humphrey said the present government did not have a mandate to sell state property.

"We are saying to the government that if you insist that you must divest, then hold a referendum on the matter," the National Joint Action Committee Against Privatization (NJACP) representative told CANA.

Humphrey said the Grenada Trades Union Council (TUC) had been mandated by members to protest the proposed sale of the Grenada Electricity Company (Grenlec) and Grenada Bank of Commerce (GBC), both of which are said to be profitable. The government denied the latter was for sale.

".... We are saying that if in the face of all of (the protests) the government insists not to do what is proper,

then we will have no other option but to mobilise the people for a programme of civil disobedience," Humphrey said.

The government is using divestment as a means of raising counterpart funding for proposed projects here that are to financed largely by international donor agencies.

Haiti

Armed Forces Commander in Chief Addresses Nation 7 Apr

FL0704214393 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in French 1720 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Speech by General Raoul Cedras, commander in chief of the Armed Forces in Port-au-Prince, marking the 190th anniversary of the death of Toussaint Louverture—live]

[Text] The voice of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] has always rung out on each commemoration of glorious or sad days in our history as a people. We seem to hear it, at each flapping of our bicolored flag, carrying to the protecting gods the tremendous hopes of an entire nation for more brotherhood and happiness. It is even the yesterdays, on 18 November, that this woeful voice, opened to all Haitian brothers a skylight on a horizon bathed in sun without the color of blood and shaped another country with them. This humble voice proposed reflections on the great problems of the times, especially on the effort to be made to make up for the advance of the unshakable leading lights of the establishment of a new world order.

Yet, today, the mortgage on the future of the nation remains more harrowing than ever and the redemption date more precipitated, and this voice refuses to declare an acknowledgement of failure. The FADH wanted to set a compass that tirelessly stated the right direction. Our laws, which stand as a certainty for our institutions and our harmonious development, were its favored tools. Coolheaded and with sure and moderate reactions, it stayed on the sidelines without any self-interest and became, in spite of itself, a party to and the main actor in the tragedy of a little Negro nation that is proud but bent under the weight of its internal dissensions and contradictions and under the cold pressure of a world disappointed by the deathly face of this people and of this country that surprised and astonished it so very long ago.

The military men, who are Haitian citizens first, to whom political exercise is refused and whose little cleverness in the mystery of diplomacy is proverbial, understood that power, that the true and modern power resided in the majority at the parliament and was not.... [pauses] but not at all in a balance of power in the streets, within the families and the institutions. They noted, even before the president and others, that the management was far from being democratic. On 30 September [1991], they left it to others to end the degradation of the political climate without making a mistake about the battle far from outdated allegiances, from outmoded constraints. The Constitution has value only through the use to which it is made and with the idea that the negotiations should not be a support granted to a cause to the detriment of another to eventually end with the conclusion that some men are bearers of ambitions but not of revolutions. Those men did not want to endure history and be courageous enough to face it or consider our misfortunes as legitimate children.

Since then, withdrawn into itself, Haiti has been searching for a system in which peasants would meet city residents, in which the wealthy would resign themselves to sharing so the poor can become almost wealthy, in which the black and the mulatoes would acknowledge that so far they have been stupid Negroes, and all of that, in partnership with the peoples of the entire world.

For that reason, we should put in order the house and govern ourselves with the most experienced and disinterested support of all, understanding that the impatience of some and the dictates of others are all fundamentally patriotic, and an imperative for us to create a destiny for the common good, and not be submissive to those who appear to nave chosen a democracy based on the common good.

FADH, weighing the events and assessing their complexity, notices that at certain times in history, there are numerous problems that at the time they are posed have no solution. Those are not words of resignation, even less, vows of Pontius Pilate; rather, it is a realistic profession of faith, combined with an invitation to reflect, to wisdom associated with decisionmaking.

That is why today, the day when Toussaint Louverture fell, this national giant with international stature, and on the eve of Easter, the day of resurrection, this voice raises itself again, only to implore the governed and the governing; the representatives of the people; the producing forces; all the cults; the professional associations; the political parties; the Haitian youth; the media intermediary; the heterogeneous business world; the military; and finally the Haitian people as a whole to regain self-control in a constructive appeasement, based on reciprocal concessions and the idea that the maintenance of power, the designation to a post, the preservation of individual and petty interests, the desire to turn everything upside down will only lead us eventually to marginalization, to a sterile standstill, to trusteeship, to total destruction.

FADH, in the respect of the laws, in a pragmatic nationalism, without any negative triumphalism, with the burning desire to keep its camps, commits itself to remain at the service of this country and this people, accompanying them in the irreversible setting of the democratic process to finally realize the real Haitian miracle, where aid to democracy will not be led astray as

aid to development that yesterday by negligence or complicity, turned into aid to exploitation or recolonization.

This voice is telling you, again and forever: Let us establish a new line toward tolerance and mutual respect so that democracy ceases to be the object of scientific analysis but that it becomes a way of live, a possibility for each human being to answer to his vocation as a man.

Officers, warrant officers, soldiers, and brothers in arms, the commander in chief knows about your sufferings because he feels in his flesh, like you, that your sacrifices, your denials, your commitment have not always been perceived as an outcome of the never undenied conviction in the faith of the country's future. In discipline, the respect of the institutions and the laws, I am asking you to always be an undeniable vector of open-mindedness, dialogue, and democracy.

PANPRA' Gilles Remarks on Party Position, Prime Minister 'Rumor'

FL0704175593 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Nothing extraordinary is hidden in the latest communique published by the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PANPRA] on its participation in the consensus government. Following is a statement by Senator and PANPRA leader Serge Gilles. According to Gilles, PANPRA participated in the government because the government's role was to conduct the negotiations to disentangle the country. According to the senator, this is a PANPRA invitation to its ministers to step down once negotiations reach an end.

"Begin recording] [Gilles] I have to tell you that PANPRA has participated in the government on this basis. It should be a government whose priority is the conduct and disentanglement of negotiations. This is the mandate the government received under the Villa d'Accueil Agreement. Many people forget that. Many people think that PANPRA ministers participate, just like any other ministers, for the sake of getting a job, and that is all. No. PANPRA's mission is to facilitate the negotiations. As democratic socialists, what we know is negotiation. But negotiations must not be a pretext, an alibi. They must be true negotiations. Given that the negotiations have now begun, PANPRA recalls that it has participated to have the negotiations moved forward and that once the negotiations reach an end, it will be relieved. This is clear. This is repeated constantly. It is not a matter of yes, two steps forward, three steps backwards. This is not the case. This is a recall [as heard].

[Unidentified speaker] Why did Dante Caputo meet only with parliament's socialist bloc last week? Gilles explains that it was because Caputo respects the party he is leading, which won 25 percent of the votes in the 1990 elections, with 20 deputies, 43 communal councils, and 117 Communal Section Administration Council coalitions. The PANPRA leader believes Caputo will meet with parliament's other political blocs as well.

Is Serge Gilles a candidate for the post of Haitian prime minister, as his name is being quoted?

[Gilles] This is a rumor. Everytime there is a junction, perhaps because the people think a new government will take office, they begin quoting names. It is not the first time that my name has been mentioned. My name was mentioned after the 1990 elections. My name was mentioned while I was sick in Paris. I was then obliged to say that I was sick, that I was hospitalized, and that it was out of the question. Again, my name is used. I am paying attention because I am used to... I am finally used to it. This is the reason I am very quiet and so on. But let me tell you that I politicize.

I am not an ambitious man, but I believe one must have some ambition if one politicizes. If it happens that the question is put to me, then, if I am directly asked, the first thing I would do is discuss it with my political party, at least at the level of the national coordinating office; secondly, I would discuss it with my wife; and thirdly, I would establish conditions. My first question would be: to what extent would one have the economic means to carry out one's policy if one holds this post, because I think this situation is so complicated that one would have problems without the economic means to effect one's policy. One must therefore make commitments with the international community. I always said so. During the 1990 campaign, while others were saying that the pork must be cooked in its own grease, I said: Be careful. This pork has very little grease. We must fatten it up. Then we will see whether it can be cooked in its own grease. [end recording]

This was Sen. Serge Gilles explaining the stand taken by his party in light of the country's political crisis. We will remind that the Haitian socialists advised at the beginning of the week that they agree to do all they can to promote continuation of the negotiations so a solution can be found to the country's political crisis. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Republican Party Seeks Nullification of General Election

FL0704190093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1827 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 7, CANA—Jamaica's small Republican Party has filed a petition in the Supreme Court seeking to have results of last Tuesday's [30 April] general election declared null and void, the Jamaica HERALD newspaper reported.

Additionally, the party has called for the resignation of members of the Electoral Advisory Committee which supervises Jamaica's elections and comprises two members each from the two major political parties and three independent members.

Denzil Taylor, head of the Republican Party, is charging that Jamaica's electoral office violated the laws governing elections by not providing the party with a copy of the voter register before election day. The Republican Party contested four of the 60 seats in the elections but failed to win any.

The incumbent People's National Party (PNP) swept the polls, posting an increased majority. With the final vote count not yet completed, the PNP has been confirmed as winning 50 seats to the Jamaica Labour Party's six.

The elections were marred by fraud, administrative foul-ups, voter intimidation, and violence in at least 15 (mostly urban) constituencies. While it has conceded that the irregularities did not affect the final result of the polls, the opposition JLP is planning to partially boycott parliament in protest and has called for a commission of enquiry. The JLP also says it will contest the result of some constituency polls in court.

El Salvador

Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Vargas Discusses Truth Commission

PA0704161593 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Interview with General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of staff, by an unidentified reporter at the Canal Doce studio in San Salvador on the "Up To Date" program—live]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Welcome to this interview.

[Vargas] Good morning. Greetings to your viewers and thank you for this opportunity.

[Reporter] General, I am told the president sent by way of special envoys, particularly Dr. Oscar Santamaria, a sort of schedule that updates and sets the tone for the fulfillment of some of the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission. Nevertheless, Jorge Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] said on 5 April that the government has not yet fulfilled the recommendations of either the Ad Hoc Commission or the Truth Commission. This creates a new source of tension because the FMLN might refrain from fulfilling the recommendations made by the Truth Commission, which bans former FMLN commanders named in the Truth Commission report from holding public office or vying for public office for the next 10 years. Where does the president's initiative lead? Is he updating the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations?

[Vargas] First of all, I must say that sometime between 31 December and the first week of January, the president sent a plan for the fulfillment of the Ad Hoc Commission's administrative recommendations to the United Nations. The UN secretary general sent this report to the Security Council with a letter approving the recommendations, adding that certain aspects should be regulated. My impression is that the regulations in that letter are the same regulations President Cristiani referred to in the letter he sent to the UN secretary general.

Regarding the views of the FMLN's coordinator, I would say he is definitely an expert in creating tension. First of all, he knows perfectly well that regulations are established directly by the UN secretary general. The secretary general's opinions are the opinions of the United Nations; he establishes the guidelines for the fulfillment of recommendations and the development of other factors. We had accepted the FMLN's surrender of weapons as satisfactory, although it was not really satisfactory because they still have missiles, nor was it really satisfactory because weapons are still scattered all over the country and Nicaragua and Honduras (?are on alert). There may be many more weapons, but that will be verified in due time. We must respect the FMLN's surrender of weapons because we resolved to be in the agreements.

[Reporter] What was the president waiting on to establish regulations? Why is he doing it now instead of doing it during the two weeks immediately after the recommendations were released?

[Vargas] It is very difficult to know the reasons a person may have had at a given time for making certain decisions. You must remember that all decisions produce reactions. Some say the decisions were made too early, others that they were made too late, others say the decisions should not have been made, and others are indifferent. In other words, one cannot say why the regulations were released in February, at the end of February, I believe. I am under the impression the regulations are adhering to the global context of the agreements and dealing strictly with the fulfillment in general terms. I cannot say why the decision was made at a given moment.

[Reporter] Although at this time we cannot clarify the chronology of events, it is remarkable that first the Truth Commission was presented, then amnesty was approved and enforced in the case of the two soldiers sentenced for the murder of the Jesuits, and then President Cristiani announced his position. Are these isolated events?

[Vargas] Well, if you are trying to establish a relationship, no. I said I had the impression it was necessary to close the case with the agreements, without any further implications in one direction or another because there is not a relationship between any two concepts, although the agreements are generally consistent. There is a lot left to do regarding the Truth Commission. It is necessary to analyze the Truth Commission more closely. Well, not exactly the commission, but its report. It will also be necessary to analyze the amnesty, its origination and what it represents. Similarly, it is necessary to consider the Armed Forces and their relationship to the amnesty. The important thing about the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations is that the secretary general expressed satisfaction with them. In other words, this a closed case. All that remains to be done is to develop and comply with the agreements, as the government and the secretary general have agreed. This point would only serve to elicit some short-lived political interest, because any time the United Nations would declare the agreements fulfilled [words indistinct]. I think this is the way we all should look at this.

[Reporter] In a news conference, the minister of defense put his position at the president's disposal. We got the impression President Cristiani had accepted this implicit resignation. Was it accepted? If accepted, do you have any idea of who would replace the defense minister? In addition, the position of deputy minister for defense is vacant.

[Vargas] First of all, putting a position at the president's disposal does not necessarily mean a resignation. It is rather a gesture of courtesy from an official to allow an authority to make any necessary decisions. This offer is not made due to disagreements with the administration,

but it is customary for ministers to offer their positions in December, when one year of the administration has passed, so the annual analysis of the administration can be made and the president can decide if the same cabinet will remain. At this time there are a number of pressures, also. The ministers usually put their positions at the president's disposal at this time of the year.

[Reporter] This is not an administrative matter, as it would have been in other presidential terms; in other words, the minister of defense putting his position at the president's disposal is not the only issue here, considering that this is the last year of the president's term and that the minister is about to complete 30 years of service. When General Ponce held a news conference, he quoted a document issued by the Defense Ministry called "Threat on Sovereignty and the Destruction of the State." The document mentioned the pressures the creditor countries can apply. I am under the impression there was a local and international situation that led him to put his position at the president's disposal. Is this only a courtesy gesture for administrations reasons, or is there something else?

[Vargas] I assure you this was a courtesy gesture because in the Armed Forces there were certain people who were creating disagreement regarding the president's administrative decision. At this time, the decision was made to put the position at the president's disposal, meaning: Do not worry; the decision will be made. Everyone has something to say here. Media reports from abroad clearly reveal their intentions. They claim the military control the president, that decisions are adopted by the military, and that the military this and that. They have continued with the same song and dance from the 1960's, as if nothing, absolutely nothing, has happened here, as if no changes have ever occurred; as if nothing happened between 1984 and 1993; as if nothing ever happens here. We still face the same position, which is based on political and ideological concepts. The same electoral views are still being defended. The idea is to attack the Armed Forces or the government. Any problem here is a result of that concept. Consequently, there it is....[pauses] that is why I put at the president's disposal [sentence as heard].

Talking about pressure, pressure has definitely been exerted. The Permanent Committee for the National Debate on Peace [CPDN] has a bunch of people who go around....[pauses] they get paid to go around carrying out this type of, well, propaganda, this type of ideological policy. The CPDN has various organizations that have been at the rebel movement's service on a given moment—and they continue to talk with impunity. Pressure has been exerted at a given moment to provoke a confrontation between the Executive Branch and the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces are in no condition, however, to confront anyone, much less the president of the Republic, to whom the corps owes subordination and obedience, even though it is not blind obedience. It is not blind obedience because there are duties, meaning rights and obligations. Right and obligations must be kept on the same level at a given moment. There is counseling; there is practically a discussion of problems on which a decision is adopted, and decisions are respected. The peace accords are.... [pauses] simply put, the peace accords only represent a political decision adopted by the nation and the cooperation of branches that make up the state are involved in the problem.

[Reporter] How can obedience by the Armed Forces not be blind when it is a corps bound by a hierarchy?

[Vargas] Definitely everything that is contrary to the law and contrary to duty, that does not represent the primary factors of a constitution and its secondary laws, and that does not fall within institutional limits and authority at a given moment, definitely cannot....[pauses] it violates principles of a nation's institutional system and its juridical-political institutions. For example, the use of the armed corps in public security matters is determined by the president. There are occasions in which the armed corps definitely cannot violate the law, even if the authorities do it at a given moment.

[Reporter] One last question before we conclude this segment. You mentioned pressure that can be exerted by social groups, such as the CPDN and other groups that are tied to the FMLN. There was also talk about international pressure. What is the current state of the Armed Forces relations with the United States? Is the U.S. Government exerting great pressure so changes are made within the Armed Forces?

[Vargas] The Armed Forces as such have no direct relation with the United States of America. We are part of the government. The government has agreements and bilateral settlements in the economic, political, and social areas, but that is done through the government. We have a direct relationship with the military advisory group, but this is not part of the government; it is practically a U.S. Army infrastructure that helps with training aspects and the administration of military resources.

The United States is definitely a sovereign state and it can decide what it feels is appropriate concerning its aid. I repeat, we have no direct relationship with the Pentagon, the Department of State, the Senate, or the House of Representatives. That is a political function of the government. We are part of the Executive Branch and we only maintain a relationship with the so-called military group, which is an entirely military organization.

Now, there are definite pressures, but these are the same ones as always. People give them, however, far more importance than what they deserve, even though we see this happening in everyday debates. We see the [name indistinct] motion, Senator Dodd's, Moakley's, the same voices that have been speaking for 12 years. This should not alarm us. The change in the administration can make interests appear to be completely different and thus events are seen differently.

[Reporter] Even though the relationship is not a direct one, because as you point out it is a relationship between the U.S. Government and the Salvadoran Government, what do you think, as a member of an armed institution and as deputy chief of staff, about the statements issued by the U.S. secretary of state? Approximately two weeks ago he mentioned a possible investigation by its own military advisers into the association between U.S. military advisers and the Armed Forces at the beginning of the war and certain tolerance to human rights violations.

[Vargas] I do not understand what they mean by tolerance. Let us discuss this at two levels. The secretary of state can investigate whatever he deems necessary from the U.S. point of view. They have every right to do this and I wish they would carry out an in-depth investigation.

[Reporter] Do you think they will?

[Vargas] I hope they do and if they do I would feel very happy because they are trying to uncover what really happened. They will not find anything else or anything like what people mention. I believe we need to place events and circumstances into proper perspective. Things are taken out of context and are described inappropriately. I do not know what they could have tolerated. They were here only as advisers and cannot have a say in what they tolerate and what they do not tolerate. They have a specific function that is established in bilateral agreements regarding security. The United States had a liaison office here for military matters, just like the EC has a liaison office here for economic or social matters. What tolerance?

[Reporter] I recall the secretary of state mentioned that Congress was never sufficiently informed when the time came to decide on the approval of renewed military and economic assistance to El Salvador. In this connection there was an incorrect report regarding human rights during the first years of war.

[Vargas] I believe the Senate's lack of information while dealing with renewal of aid has been a two-way affair. Nicaragua's intervention in El Salvador is something that was always denied and went as far as the U.S. Congress, which also had distorted information. Therefore, they have always been a little misinformed on what really went on inside the country. We Salvadorans cannot fool ourselves because we have lived through the experience, we have felt it. What has happened is tangible for us. As I said before, some things are taken out of context and are shown as isolated events at a given moment to present a predetermined idea to Congress. Analysts say the Democrats seek vengeance from the Republicans. Others say it is a vendetta, others say-....[pauses] These affairs are none of our business. This is a U.S. problem, a problem for the United States, and a problem for Americans.

We Salvadorans simply want allies, friends. What we do not want are masters. We will definitely not accept that.

[Reporter] How has the U.S. Government behaved? Have they behaved as allies, friends, or masters?

[Vargas] I believe there is an alliance and they have been friends.

[Reporter] At this moment?

[Vargas] We have to wait for developments. They are just getting started now; there are a series of concepts and events that are taking place. There is a series of pressures that must be seen in their political context, but we need to look beyond that. What is happening must be viewed within a political context, as long as they do not directly intervene in state affairs, as long as they do not affect our decisions. The United States can exert pressure with the aid; they can exert pressure with political measures, they can exert pressure....[pauses] but this is the political play in international relations. We need to understand this. I fully agree that we may sometimes not like it. Sometimes they can be a bit annoying [chocantes], but this is their right within the political context of international relations. I cannot see why this should alarm us. I say there are certain things and limits that should not be exceeded. My idea is that there should be aid for the country; conditions are then set and these conditions are what have to be examined at a certain moment. I believe this is as far as it should go. If at a given moment there is interference, I believe we need to set the record straight and tell them that it is not right.

[Reporter] Do you know who will replace the deputy defense minister for the remainder of President Cristiani's term?

[Vargas] As you know the Republic's Constitution states ministers and deputy ministers are cabinet members and the president of the Republic has the constitutional power to appoint them. He will make the decisions he deems advisable.

[Reporter] No decision in this regard has been conveyed to you?

[Vargas] No, there is no discussion on this. The best decisions are being made to benefit the process, the country, and the institution. I think this will be the guideline.

[Reporter] It has been rumored you could be among those promoted. Has an offer been made to you?

[Vargas] Absolutely not, because this would not be right. I have received no news in this regard. I am not considering a promotion either. This is definitely a decision the president should make. I have absolutely no bearing on this. I already hold a position of great responsibility. I am pleased to be lead by General Gilberto Rubio and Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce. There is nothing to this. [passage omitted]

FMLN's Villalobos Delivers AK-47 to Mexican President

PA0804015993 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 6 Apr 94 p 4

[Text] Joaquin Villalobos, former general command member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], which has become a political party, on 6 April delivered an AK-47 rifle to Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari as proof of his gratitude "for the ample support given by his country and government to the peace process in El Salvador."

The rifle delivered by Villalobos is the one he used during the 12-year conflict in El Salvador, "which proves the FMLN politician's confidence in the peace process under way in our country," according to the FMLN Communications Secretariat.

The secretariat added: "The action represents our gratitude for the outstanding role played by the Mexican Government and for the Mexican people's participation, solidarity, and cooperation for consolidating peace and democracy in our country."

The ceremony was scheduled for 4 April, following a visit to Washington by Villalobos, who is a member of the political commission, the highest FMLN organization. It was postponed until 6 April for work reasons.

Guatemala

URNG Reports 63 Army Casualties in March

PA0704162593 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, has reported that it inflicted 63 casualties on the Armed Forces in clashes in various parts of the country in March. In addition, the URNG denounced continued Army bombing of areas populated by civilians, particularly in El Quiche Department, according to a communique sent to Guatemala's NG [expansion unknown] news agency.

The bulletin stated that most casualties were inflicted on the Army near Ixcan and Coban, where another six casualties were inflicted. The report indicated that three other casualties were inflicted on the Army in Solola Department.

"The guerrillas have always been characterized as exaggerating their figures to try to show they still have combat capabilities or territorial control," a high-ranking military officer stated on 5 April upon learning of the URNG report.

The government source explained that only three casualties were inflicted on the Army in March, while three others were inflicted on the URNG. The source also denied that the Armed Forces are bombing the defenseless population. Military planes fly 4,000 or 5,000 feet over Zone 14 because that is the route used to supply the Cuarto Pueblo military base, not to bomb villages, the military officer concluded.

Honduras

Military Fraternity Meeting Ends in Tegucigalpa

PA0704123393 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 6 Apr 93 p 15

[Text] The fourth meeting of the Central American Military Fraternity ended on 5 April in Tegucigalpa with a series of conferences by military experts on topics that included the Salvadoran civil war, regional integration, and the environment.

The meeting began on 29 March and was attended by 18 officers from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Salvadoran Colonel Jose Domingo Chorro gave a political-military analysis of the Salvadoran civil war and the situation of retired soldiers in that country.

The Salvadoran conflict lasted approximately 12 years and caused over 70,000 deaths and incalculable damages.

Salvadoran Col. Marco Tulio Fajardo discussed the use of hydraulic resources.

A new board of directors was also elected. It will be headed by Honduran Col. Guillermo Thuman Cordon, who will replace Col. Antonio Nunez.

Nicaragua

Presidency Communique Issued on Spanish Loan

PA0704194493 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Communique issued by the Presidency Public Relations and Official Information Directorate in Managua on 6 April]

[Text] The Presidency Public Relations and Official Information Directorate informs the Nicaraguan people and the international community of the following: Within the framework of the visit to Spain by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, the global cooperation program between the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of Nicaragua was signed on the afternoon of 6 April. This cooperation agreement will offer the Nicaraguan Government $84 million in credit to finance production projects using Spanish goods and services.

This support by the Kingdom of Spain is added to the support given by the international community to the government of President Chamorro in the recent meeting of the Consultative Group for Nicaragua, which took place on 2 April in Paris. In addition, this represents the support of those countries that are friends of

Nicaragua, which have renovated their desire for the reconciliation and democratization policy promoted by the government led by President Violeta Chamorro.

During his visit to Spain, the Presidency minister strengthened the political and economic relations between Spain and Nicaragua by holding a series of meeting with Narcis Serra, deputy prime minister of the Spanish Government; Foreign Minister Javier Solana; Defense Minister Julian Garcia Vargas; Inocencio Arias, state secretary for cooperation; and leaders of political parties and the business sector.

In Madrid, the local media highlighted the $84 million credit, stressing the fact that the Spanish loan is a clear indication of the support by the international community to Violeta Chamorro in her efforts to lay the foundations of sustained development.

[Issued] Managua, 6 April 1993
[Signed] Public Relations and Official Information Directorate of the Presidency

Panama

President Endara Appoints Colon Free Port Special System Advisory Board

PA0704184493 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p 2A

[Report by Ibeth Vega G.]

[Text] On 6 April President Guillermo Endara appointed the five members of the Colon Free Port Special System Advisory Board through Executive Decree 58. They will be tasked with implementing the development plans directed at reducing the acute unemployment problem in the province.

For several weeks now, certain political and business sectors of the Atlantic region have been criticizing the government for the delay in beginning the Colon Free Port development plans. These plans have created high expectations among the coastal residents.

The appointment of the members of the advisory board has triggered conflicting reactions, especially among trade unions, who nominated three candidates to the board.

The Endara decree appoints Treasury Minister Mario Galindo; Colon Governor Joaquin Franco; Julio Garay, for the Chamber of Commerce; Gilberto Soto, representing the transportation unions; and Raquel Camacho, for small businesses in Colon Province, as members of the Colon Free Port Advisory Board.

The advisory board must officially begin the projects that will start the Colon Free Port development process aimed at reducing the province's unemployment rate.

Several days ago, Wellington Fung, the president of the Association of Colon Free Zone Users, said that it was "irresponsible" to state that the Colon Free Port Law has not yet been implemented because of the Treasury Ministry. He pointed to a series of factors, including the lack of human and economic resources, as the reason for the delay.

According to Fung, there are other factors that cannot be overlooked, including customs controls.

President Issues Decree on Canal

PA0704230293 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p 16

["Presidential Decree No. 32" issued in Panama City on 5 April]

[Text] "Wherein Decree 180 of 1991 is replaced and the Presidential Commission for Canal Affairs is created."

The president of the Republic, using the constitutional and legal powers bestowed upon him, decrees:

Whereas, the Ad Hoc Commission for the Panama Canal and Reverted Areas has fulfilled with patriotism and effectiveness its mission of studying, preparing a draft bill, advising the Cabinet Council in the preparation of the Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) draft bill, counseling the Honorable Legislators in the approval of the law that creates the ARI,

That the Ad Hoc Commission has been working on constitutional reform bills and internal law for the canal's administrative organization,

That the Ad Hoc Commission has created subcommissions that are performing very important work in preparing the aforementioned point,

That it is advisable to replace Decree No. 180 of 1991, which created the Ad Hoc Commission and give it the rank of presidential commission and recognize the achievements of the subcommissions such as the work of the Support Group,

Decrees:

Article 1: Create a "Presidential Commission for Panama Canal Affairs." This commission will perform the following:

1. Draft constitutional reform bills and internal laws for the organization that will administer the canal. To this end, the commission will study in depth the following documents and affairs: I. How the canal works. II. The various legislative reports that have been prepared in the past on the canal topic. III. U.S. Law 96-70. IV. Internal regulations of the former Panama Canal Company. V. Current Panama Canal Commission labor codes. VI. The canal's financial structure. VII. Toll policies and the codes that regulate them as well as review procedures. VIII. Canal navigation rules and regulations. IX. Indemnity regulation in case of accidents in the canal. X.

Regulation on budget preparation and approval. XI. Audit and checking mechanisms.

2. When drafting the internal laws for the organization administering the canal, it should also consider the advisability of holding this organization responsible for administering the watershed to guarantee a high enough volume of water, a vital element for canal operation.

Likewise, it should consider the advisability for this organization to manage the Cristobal and Balboa docks and the transisthmian railway, as well as other forms of transportation, which due to their nature, must be considered as part of canal operations, thus strengthening the international competitiveness of the transisthmian operation.

3. Make recommendations to the national government on changes that need to be instituted over the next few years within the current Panama Canal Commission structure, to ease the transition from a U.S. Government agency to the Panamanian canal administrative organization.

4. Hold extensive consultations on draft bills with national sectors, including the following people or organizations: I. Professional, technical, civic, and political organizations. II. Business and workers' organizations. III. Government specialized organizations and state autonomous entities that affect both. IV. The universities. V. The Panama Canal Commission. VI. National centers of study.

5. Prepare the draft bills and the constitutional reform bills pertaining to the canal administrative organization, within the framework of these recommendations and present them to the Executive Branch for consideration, providing explanations.

6. Cooperate by explaining the draft bills to the Cabinet Council. Once they have been formally proposed, explain them to the Legislative Assembly and to the public in general.

7. To this end, the Presidential Commission for Panama Canal Affairs, representing the president, may discuss all issues pertaining to the best use and administration of the Panama Canal, with the Panama Canal Board of Directors and the Panama Canal administration, as well as with the Southern Command commander in chief.

Article 2: Appoint the members of the Presidential Commission for Panama Canal Affairs as such:

Mr. Joaquin J. Vallarino to preside over the commission.
Dr. Juan Cristobal Zuniga
Dr. Diogenes de la Rosa
Mr. Roberto Brenes
Engineer Luis Eduardo Guizado
Architect Guillermo Elias Quijano Jr.
Architect Jorge R. Riba
Honorable Legislator Olimpo Saez
Honorble Legislator Carlos Arellano Lenox

Article 3: Create the Support Group for the Presidential Commission for Panama Canal Affairs, with the basic task of coordinating the work of the commissions this presidential commission creates, and in general, of providing advice to this commission.

Article 4: Appoint members of the Support Group as such:
Mr. Ricardo Brin
Dr. Richard Darling
Mr. Salvador Sanchez
Mr. Marco De Obaldia
Engineer Rogelio Delgado
Mr. Cesar Valencia
Architect David Samudio

Article 5: This decree becomes effective upon its approval.

For Release and Publication
Guillermo Endara Galimany
President of the Republic

Julio Linares
Presidency Minister [title as published]

Electoral Inspector Investigates Alleged Firearm Purchases

PA0804044093 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p 3a

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] On 6 April, electoral inspector Claro Amado Renderos launched an investigation into the alleged purchase of firearms by political parties to be used during the forthcoming general election.

After receiving the National Unity Mission Party's charges and a request to investigate weapons stockpiling by political parties, Amado Renderos stated that he would send a list of questions to Magistrate Dennis Allen and Legislator Olimpo Saez—who had mentioned the illegal activity previously.

Allen disclosed reports that political sectors were illegally buying weapons and that the weapons allegedly would be used during the 1994 elections.

Olimpo Saez, a Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement legislator, stated that parties, such as the Arnulfist and Liberal parties, which control the government institutions purchasing weapons, or Democratic Revolutionary Party members, could obtain firearms during the forthcoming elections.

According to the electoral inspector, the electoral law stipulates that people who are armed and who enter

electoral installations can be sentenced to from 10 days to three months in prison and fined from 50 to 500 balboas.

Although the Panamanian Constitution decrees that the government alone can have firearms, large numbers of weapons are in private hands.

In 1988, Mayor Augusto Villalaz piloted three Panamanian Air Force flights bringing large amounts of AK-47 rifles and RPG grenade launchers into Panama. Those weapons fell into civilian hands after the U.S. invasion.

Authorities have reports that government members are involved in weapons smuggling from Costa Rica and Nicaragua. So far, only Arnulfist Ruben Navarro has been investigated for stockpiling firearms. The court, however, ruled that his arrest by the Judicial Technical Police had been illegal.

Claro Amado Renderos reported that his office has held 150 hearings and has requested that out of those 100 be tried. All the cases were charged with irregularities during the 1989 elections.

Argentina

British Interest Denied in Exploiting Gas Near Falklands

PY0804134193 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2158 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] London, 7 Apr (TELAM)—British Gas Executive Manager Peter Cumpler today denied the company's interest in exploiting areas near the Malvinas Islands until "a political solution" is found for the problem.

Cumpler admitted that British Gas "has been present" in the Argentine mainland since 1989 "exploiting several border areas."

Regarding rumors by the Argentine press in the last few days about a possible partnership between British Gas and the Argentine state-owned Government Oil Deposits, Cumpler admitted that "there have been some talks," but "about areas that are near the Malvinas, the sovereignty of which are not under discussion."

He added: "We have seismic data about the Falklands-Malvinas, but they do not lead us to any action. We do not consider this data favorable."

A few days ago, the Argentine Foreign Ministry warned international oil companies about the risk of searching for and exploiting oil in a litigious area, such as the Malvinas.

The warning originated in Buenos Aires, two days after London reported that it had bid for oil prospecting and exploitation in the Malvinas area, where the Spectrum and the Greek Prakla companies have been conducting seismic prospecting work for the last six months.

Economy Minister: Services 'Not Good' After Privatizations

PY0704232593 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Apr 93 p 3

[Excerpts] (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo yesterday recognized that the electricity and gas services provided by private companies "are not good" and admitted that there haven't been any substantial improvements since privatization.

Speaking at a ceremony inaugurating the new heads of the gas and electricity regulatory bodies, he said that short-term improvements were impossible "because after years without investment, ideal services aren't going to appear overnight. You have to be realistic," he said, "services are bad, but before we were worse off."

Cavallo defended the appointment of Fundacion Mediterranea member Carlos Mattausch as head of the regulatory body, saying that he best fit the technical requirements of the post. Mattausch was trustee of the former state-owned electric company, Segba [Greater Buenos Aires Electrical Services], during the privatization process. [passage omitted]

The new head of the gas regulatory body is another Fundacion Mediterranea member, Raul Garcia, who was Fuels Undersecretary during the Gas del Estado privatization.

Nation Enters Brady Debt-Reduction Plan

PY0704230793 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] (DYN)—Argentina enters the Brady foreign debt reduction plan today, one of the most important economic achievements so far by President Carlos Menem's administration.

Menem yesterday called the refinancing of Argentina's debt to commercial banks "an historic act" which the government believes is the best method to open international credit doors. The agreement establishes a 35 percent reduction on one-third of the commercial debt, which will carry a variable interest rate. The remainder will carry a fixed interest rate increasing in gradual steps from 4 to 7 percent in the first seven years. The rate will be maintained at 7 percent until the year 2022.

The "old debt" will be converted into discount and par bonds, approximately 33 and 67 percent respectively. The discount bonds include a 35 percent capital reduction and carry a floating interest rate for a 30-year term.

Argentina will have to make punctual payments on its debt with the 500 commercial banks which are members of the creditor banks committee.

Debts with other international credit organizations, such as the International Development Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as well as the Paris Club are not affected by the Brady plan agreement.

Debt titles will be swapped for the bonds in New York, London, Germany and Buenos Aires today and the new payment agreements will be formalized according to guidelines established by the programme proposed by the U.S. government.

In order to enter into the debt reduction plan, representatives of the Argentine government must deposit 3.2 billion dollars in guarantees and advance interest payments for the coming year and pay another 700 million dollars in interest arrears at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The foreign debt to be refinanced under the Brady plan will be guaranteed by 1.8 billion dollars worth of U.S. Treasury zero-coupon bonds. This sum plus another 1.7 billion dollars, were put up by various international bodies—including 1.2 billion loaned by the IMF. Another 400 million dollars came from the Argentine National Treasury.

Once Argentina's entry into the Brady plan is official, the nation's debt payments will be guaranteed for a 30-year period.

Although official commentary has not emphasized it, economists expect that 30 years of timely debt payments will have repercussions for the local economy and will perhaps exert new tax pressures on society.

Capital debt owed by Argentina to private banks will be reduced from 28.8 billion to 21 billion dollars by virtue of the plan.

For interest arrears the creditor banks will receive non-guaranteed 13-year bonds, called PDI bonds, with a floating interest rate of 13/16 points above the Libor [London Interbank Offered Rate] rate.

It is estimated that Argentina's average payments will be 2.3 billion dollars per year until the year 2004 when the PDI bonds come to term. From 2005 to 2022 an estimated 1.3 billion annual dollars will go to foreign debt payments. [passage omitted]

People's Revolutionary Organization Denies Attack

PY0704210493 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1733 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Apr (NA)—The People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP) today denied its participation in the bomb-scare attack last week against a top executive of the Autolatina Transax car-making consortium in Cordoba. The ORP added that "the only actions that can be attributed" to our organization are the ones we claim.

The ORP clarified its position in a communique sent to Radio America denying the statement made by the Cordoba Province government, which blamed the ORP for the attack against the executive. The communique released today says:

"Our organization had no participation in the attack against a top Autolatina Transax company executive in Cordoba on 3 April. We reiterate that the only actions that can be attributed to our organization are the ones we claim." [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Foreign Minister Criticized for Territorial Proposal

PY0704230393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1734 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] La Paz, 7 Apr (EFE)—Various Bolivian political and labor union leaders criticized Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean for his alleged willingness to negotiate territorial compensation with Chile for an outlet to the Pacific.

Although MacLean said that EL MERCURIO newspaper misinterpreted his statements, politicians, labor union leaders, and others immediately rejected them. Some legislative branch members said MacLean had no authorization to speak.

During his visit to the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on 6 April, MacLean made it clear that "Bolivia is open to negotiating unconditionally, without excluding or accepting anything, in order to maintain all the options" in its 100-year-old demand for an outlet to the Pacific.

Jorge Landivar, the vice president of the ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] of the ruling coalition, stated that MacLean, who is an ADN member, "made statements that are not within his authority."

Landivar said his statements are not in keeping with the government policy the Patriotic Accord [AP] seeks to follow in dealing with the maritime issue.

The AP is the government alliance made up of the ADN and the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], which has nominated ADN President General Hugo Banzer to run in the 6 June presidential elections.

Defense Minister Admiral Alberto Saenz Klinsky, on behalf of the Armed Forces, stated that Bolivia will not renounce its right to the sea. He said that "one cannot negotiate something that legally belongs to Bolivia, no matter the agreements or commitments agreed upon by the government."

Fernando Rojas, president of the Chamber of Deputies International Affairs Committee, warned that Bolivia will not accept any territorial exchange for access to the sea, and suggested silence on a possible exchange.

Senator Jorge Escobari, who is an expert in relations with Chile and was a former foreign minister, regretted that MacLean is unaware of Bolivian diplomatic history. He said: "His decision to make such a very serious proposal for the country without even having an international policy plan is worrisome."

Escobari said MacLean's proposal entails a return to surrendering to dictatorial governments, an allusion to the so-called "Charara embrace" between former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet and former Bolivian President Hugo Banzer. Bilateral relations were resumed for three years under those administrations.

Escobari also stated that MacLean's attitude invalidates the 11 OAS resolutions that view the 100-year-old Bolivian maritime demand as a continental problem.

Former Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal, of the opposition Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, stated that "forgetting the historical background is negative." He said, speaking on an exchange of territory for a sea outlet, "MacLean forgets that this proposal already was strongly rejected by Bolivians."

The La Paz newspaper HOY reported that Bolivian Labor Federation Secretary Freddy Auza said

MacLean's statements are a national outrage and a huge mistake within the Foreign Ministry's projects, if they exist.

An editorial in the newspaper LA RAZON, which publicly supported MacLean, warns him that "it would be naive to listen to some of his lost advisers, who are urging him to offer territory in exchange for that conflictive and illusory maritime zone."

The editorial says: Bolivia "suffers the trauma of mutilation and will not give up any piece of territory." Commenting on the negotiations for the Lima Treaty signed in 1929, it states that "it is not appropriate for our interests to act as troublemakers again in the Chilean-Peruvian frictions. We have to remain above them."

Peru and Chile are negotiating the fulfillment of this treaty for the establishment of a Peruvian dock in the Chilean port of Arica.

Brazil

Rio Police Arrest Pablo Escobar's Lawyer

PY0804011693 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Frank Lino Diaz, cocaine king Pablo Escobar's most trusted man, has been arrested in Rio de Janeiro. Diaz is Escobar's lawyer and was preparing a hideout in Rio de Janeiro for the Colombian Medellin cartel chief.

Diaz, who is Pablo Escobar's right-hand man in Brazil, was born in Cuba and was naturalized as a U.S. citizen. He has been working for the most powerful drug trafficking organization in the world for 13 years. Diaz was arrested by Federal Police in Rio de Janeiro in 1987 but managed to escape from prison. He learned military techniques in Colombia with Pablo Escobar himself. He has received more than $1 million from the cocaine king for each year of work.

The Rio de Janeiro Police Narcotics Division is certain that lawyer Frank Diaz was creating a Medellin cartel infrastructure in Rio de Janeiro. The idea was to create ghost companies to be used as fronts to ship cocaine abroad. He also was in charge of seeking a hideout for big boss Pablo Escobar.

Escobar, who escaped from jail in Colombia last year, ordered Diaz to control the distribution of cocaine in Brazil, as well as the drug trafficking routes that include Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. In Rio de Janeiro alone, the Medellin cartel brings in more than 60 billion cruzeiros a month from the sale of drugs.

Frank Diaz has been taken to the Federal Police station. He will be extradited to the United States, where he is being charged with 21 crimes.

Government Denies Existence of New Economic Plan

PY0704141093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The government has officially denied the existence of an economic plan or shock package to change the current rules of the national economy. The denial was made by Finance Minister Eliseu Resende on orders of President Itamar Franco.

Early yesterday evening, news from Congress on the existence of a so-called progressive plan to recover society's confidence reached the president's desk and he immediately ordered the finance minister to clarify the situation to the people.

[Begin Resende recording] It is important to explain this situation to the people and to officially announce that we have always tried to be consistent. We want to send a consistent and solid message to stop the gossip and the distorted reports that alarm the market. [end recording]

The finance minister added that the government has never conditioned the drop of inflation to a constitutional reform in October. He said this reform would help reduce inflation, but other mechanisms are already being implemented by the government to gradually reduce inflation.

Espirito Santo Leader Joins Governors Supporting Franco

PY0804000293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by Antonia Marcia Vale from Planalto Palace]

[Text] The governors front that is being formed to support Itamar Franco's government was joined by Espirito Santo Governor Albuino Azeredo today.

Albuino Azeredo is a PDT [Democratic Labor Party] member. He came to tell the president that he will try to convince his party's leader, Leonel Brizola, that this is not the right time to attack the federal government.

In the Espirito Santo governor's opinion, the governors front must hold in check the electoral campaign atmosphere that is establishing itself in our country because this campaign only makes the government's working conditions worse, and the government requires some tranquility in order to curb our country's economic and social deterioration.

In Albuino Azeredo's opinion, if the current government is not in a position of reducing impending social problems, even the 1994 elections may be jeopardized by social upheaval.

According to Albuino, reducing interest rates is one of the key measures to lessen the crisis. President Itamar Franco complained later to the governor that he has few allies supporting this measure.

[Begin Azeredo recording] Concerning this measure, I am allied with the president. Either interest rates are reduced or the country goes bankrupt. The country is on the brink of bankruptcy. Who is going bankrupt? The financial system is going bankrupt. The country is going bankrupt. [end recording]

Concerning the elections, Albuino stressed that everyone has a right to become a presidential candidate, but this is not the right moment to promote candidates.

The governors front is being formed by Justice Minister Mauricio Correa and, according to the Espirito Santo governor, it already has received the support of most northeast state governors and the Minas Gerais governor.

Privatization Plan Includes 51 Companies

PY0704223493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Apr 93 p 22

[Text] The government privatization plan includes the sale of 51 companies and the possibility of collecting an amount equivalent to $9 billion (235 trillion cruzeiros at the commercial exchange rate). Alexis Stepanenko, vice president of the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development], said the companies in the telecommunications and electric fields are excluded from the list. He explained that the sale of the telecommunications companies depends on the constitutional reform, and this is why the government decided to exclude them from the program.

Regarding the electric companies, there is no monopoly established by the Constitution. This is a field that requires large long-range investments that so far have not attracted private investors.

Stepanenko said the Franco administration sold six companies in six months for $2.2 billion. During the 1981-1989 period, the sales only reached $600 million; under the Collor administration the privatization of 14 companies brought in $4 billion.

Stepanenko rejected the report that the auction of CSN [National Iron and Steel Company] was a failure.

He said: "The company was sold at the minimum price, which was the price the market was willing to pay. I believe it was a success because there was great doubt about the Franco government's willingness to go ahead with the privatization program."

Government Seeks Information on Brazilian Arrested in Chile

PY0804015893 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 7 Apr 93 p 5

[Text] The Brazilian Foreign Ministry sent instructions to the Brazilian Consulate in Santiago, Chile, to get information on the arrest of Brazilian sociologist Tania Maria Cordeiro, who is accused by the Chilean Government of heading a gang involved in holdups that is linked to the leftist Lautaro Movement. By yesterday the Foreign Ministry had not received any information on the circumstances of her arrest and how she is being treated.

Supermarket Owners Ask Military To Prevent Looting

PY0704184993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Apr 93 Cities Section p 6

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—The Brazilian Association of Supermarkets (ABS) on 5 April submitted a note to the Army and Justice Ministries asking for help in the fight against the looting that is going on in Rio de Janeiro. Ailton Fornari, the president of ABS in Rio de Janeiro, said that the organization wants the Army and the Federal Police to help detain looters and identify the organizations behind the looting.

Since 29 March, 29 supermarkets have been sacked. The police are investigating the origin of the codfish being sold by street vendors in the northern area of Rio de Janeiro, because this product is a favorite of the looters. There was no looting early on the morning of 5 April. Some 50 members of the Military Police are guarding supermarkets in the region.

Chile

Acting Foreign Minister Describes Agreement With Bolivia

PY0704165793 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Apr 93

[Text] Enrique Silva Cimma and Ronald MacLean, Chilean and Bolivian foreign ministers, respectively, signed today a historic bilateral economic complementation agreement.

Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas labeled the agreement as an integration project of the Aylwin administration. The agreement includes several facilities for increasing bilateral trade. Matters related to the Chilean unilateral concessions, preferences, and [words indistinct] were negotiated up until the last moment. An agreement has been reached by which preference has been granted for a period of five years, which can be extended for equal periods through negotiation.

If a total or partial renewal of the agreement is not reached, the unilateral preferences on which there is no agreement will be eliminated over three years, at the rate of 33 percent every year. The reciprocal concessions are for an indefinite period. A mechanism has been established so that businessmen can express their opinions on the agreement to the Business Action Committee.

The economic complementation agreement includes the possibility for Bolivia to sell natural gas to Chile, with private businessmen in charge of the project. Edmundo

Vargas believes that the agreement shows the integrationist attitude of the Chilean Government. He said:

[Begin recording] There are special reasons that justify our optimism about this agreement with Bolivia because as you all know we have no diplomatic relations with Bolivia. As Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said yesterday: Chile does not object, we would like to have relations. This is why the government of President Aylwin decided to establish with Bolivia the best relations possible. This is why Chile has adopted the following measures: the elimination of visas for Bolivians entering the country, the conclusion of the international highway with Bolivia connecting the Tambo Quemado-Arica segment, the proposal to Congress for changing Chilean legislation to allow foreigners, especially Bolivians, to buy property in Arica. [end recording]

Edmundo Vargas added that the problem of border markers has been solved, stating that it is important to have well marked borders. The Chilean and Bolivian Governments are now entering a new stage of understanding after relations were severed by Bolivia on 17 March 1978.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Offers To Mediate

PY0704141293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and his Bolivian counterpart Ronald MacLean have signed a historic economic and commercial supplementation agreement in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

In the presence of the foreign ministers of the Rio Group—and after long negotiations that were marked by problems—Silva Cimma and MacLean signed the agreement which seeks to balance bilateral trade.

Silva Cimma said in Santa Cruz that the final obstacle was caused by a difference of interpretation of one of the clauses. He said:

[Begin recording] Doubts arose over the interpretation of a specific clause on a quota that sought to reduce an imbalance in our trade with Bolivia. We have a very favorable trade balance. We export to Bolivia goods and services worth about $200 million while Bolivian exports to Chile amount to about $25 million. There is a very big imbalance. In the face of this, a special $30 million quota was established for some products. There were disagreements on the duration of the clause. Bolivia wanted it to be valid for an indefinite period. We did not agree to that but to reviewing the clause every five years. [end recording]

Silva Cimma said that the signing of the agreement reflects the progress made in the past three years, progress that exceeded everything achieved in the past 100 years.

MacLean said that the agreement is the result of the common destiny of the two peoples. The agreement will last 10 years, but export quotas subject to zero tariffs will be reviewed every five years. Some 80 products will be traded by both sides, but Bolivia will enjoy unilateral advantages on some eight more products. The agreement also provides for the signing of another agreement on the sale of Bolivian gas.

As the agreement was signed during the Rio Group meeting, Brazilian Foreign Fernando Henrique Cardoso offered to mediate between Chile and Bolivia in an effort to reestablish the diplomatic ties that were broken in 1978. At the meeting with the foreign ministers of the two nations, Cardoso told them that his government would be very pleased to help a rapprochement between the two nations. He invited them to come to Brasilia to begin the negotiations. Bolivia and Chile severed relations in 1978 after Chile refused to negotiate Bolivia's demands for access to the sea.

MAPU Endorses Frei's Presidential Candidacy

PY0804032693 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by Osvaldo Vega]

[Excerpts] During a meeting at noon today in the Conquistador hotel in downtown Santiago, the MAPU [United Popular Action Movement] proclaimed Senator Eduardo Frei as its presidential candidate.

Thus the Christian Democratic Party candidate, who is running first in all presidential opinion polls, already has received the support of the PAC [Centrist Alliance Party], the MOC [United Popular Action Movement, Workers and Peasants Faction], and the Social Democratic Party, among others.

Attending the meeting with Frei was MAPU Executive Board chief Juan Manuel Parra and members Dario Roman, America Riquelme, and Rafael Torres. Frei was in the company of Christian Democratic Youth members Felipe Sandoval and Alex Figueroa. [recorded passage omitted]

Parra stated that all MAPU followers will loyally work for Eduardo Frei in the primaries and at the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] convention.

Parra reported that on 19 May the MAPU will stage a rally to publicly proclaim Eduardo Frei as MAPU presidential candidate within the CPPD.

Frei thanked them for this support and noted that MAPU's cooperation with the CPPD program has been important. Frei reaffirmed that the CPPD is more than an electoral and political accord. It is a coalition with a good governmental performance and, consequently, it must remain united to conclude the pending tasks.

Poll of Voters Shows Gap Decreasing Between Frei, Lagos

PY0804140393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] According to a poll carried out by CEP-Adimark [Political Studies Center-Adimark] in March, the position of [Socialist Party, PS, presidential candidate] Ricardo Lagos has climbed four points, narrowing the gap he has with [Christian Democratic Party, PDC, presidential candidate] Eduardo Frei, who still leads.

The poll shows that 37 percent of the voters prefer the PDC candidate, while the PS candidate has 21 percent.

The candidate in the best position in the opposition is Manuel Feliu [National Renewal Party, RN] with 2.5 percent; he is followed by Jovino Novoa [Independent Democratic Union, UDI] with 1.5 percent. Francisco Javier Errazuriz [Center Center Union], however, is preferred by 4.5 percent of voters.

As for the popularity of the political parties, the PDC maintains its leadership with 36.2 percent; then comes the PPD [Party for Democracy] with 10.6 percent; the PS with 8.5 percent; the RN with 6.5 percent; the UDI with 6 percent; and the Center Center Union with 5.2 percent.

The government was also evaluated in this poll; it received a 28.5 percent approval rating for its economic administration, but 59.6 percent of those polled think the government should make a greater effort to solve the crime problem.

The results of this poll were announced by Adimark coordinator Roberto Mendez and CEP Director Arturo Fontaine.

Carabineros Official Says Subversion Not 'Defeated'

PY0804022193 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by Manola Robles from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpts] General Oscar Tapia, the Carabineros order and safety director, stated that subversion has not been defeated. Tapia attended the Security Council meeting held in La Moneda every Wednesday in which recent public order events are analyzed. [passage omitted]

When asked whether successful police operations against terrorism might represent a hard blow against it, Tapia said:

[Begin recording] International experiences show us that we should not comment on these issues. Some successful police actions may weaken a movement, but I do not share the belief that we have to remain very tranquil. On the contrary, this is a latent problem and we always have to be alert. It would be a great mistake for us and you journalists to think terrorism was overcome. [end recording]

Tapia said antisubversive actions demand patience and a long period of work because terrorists can carry out actions to show that they effectively received blows but can maintain themselves. [passage omitted]

Concerning terrorism, he concluded by saying continuous efforts should be made and that one should not be complacent about recent successful actions.

Navy, Air Force Oppose Military Service Limits

PY0804013493 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by Marcela Torrejon]

[Text] General Ramon Vega, the Air Force, FACh, commander in chief; and Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch, the Navy commander in chief, have voiced disagreements over limiting the term of military service in their respective units.

Vega and Martinez Busch referred to the various technical programs that demand more extensive instruction. Vega said military service offers an opportunity to many youths. Vega emphasized the characteristics of the instruction given in the Air Force.

[Begin recording] [Vega] We are implementing a free and very efficient technical education program in the Air Force. The youth learns a determined profession, and even obtains a diploma. I think it would not be convenient to limit the term. Military service demands one and a half years, and we are in a position to appropriately train them in this period.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there any study [words indistinct] the FACh?

[Vega] Not for the time being. [end recording]

Vega said that because the current law establishes two years of military service, there could be periods of variable military enlistments depending on the FACh branches.

Martinez Busch, in turn, said the Navy is not planning to reduce the term of military service. He also noted that conscripts learn a profession, and that 15 percent of the total contingent might choose a military career. He referred to the issue after he lectured at the opening of Pacific University's academic year. Gen. Vega talked with the press shortly before the lunch hosted by the Army for Air Force generals at the military club in Lo Curro District.

The Army is the only branch that reportedly is analyzing the possibility of limiting compulsory military service.

FPMR Leader Reportedly Hiding in 'South American Country'

PY0704162093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0012 GMT 4 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Santiago, 3 Apr (EFE)—The government newspaper LA NACION reported today that one of the leaders of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) marxist terrorist group has been located by the Chilean police in a South American country.

The newspaper, which does not identify the country, maintains that the person involved is Galvarino Sergio Apablaza, alias Commandant Salvador.

Citing police sources, the newspaper reports that detectives of the Criminal Organization Investigation Brigade (BIOC) travelled on 1 April to a South American country to look for the suspect.

Judge Guillermo Navas had signed an order for the arrest of Apablaza for his alleged participation in the murder of rightist Senator Jaime Guzman on 1 April 1991 in Santiago. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Medellin Cartel Financial Group Member Surrenders

PA0704222493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2133 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] Medellin (Colombia), 7 Apr (EFE)—Official sources reported that Fernando Leon Londono Velasquez, a member of the Medellin Cartel's financial organization, surrendered to authorities in this northeastern Colombian city on 7 April. The Medellin Cartel is headed by Pablo Escobar, a fugitive and confessed Colombian drug trafficker.

It was further reported that Londono, alias "Neris," turned himself in to Fernando Mancilla, director of the Antioquia Regional Prosecutor's Office. He stated his wish to take advantage of the decrees the Colombian Government offered in 1991 that allow for drug traffickers to surrender and receive reduced sentences.

Radio Cadena Nacional reported that Londono Velasquez climbed up the ladder in the Medellin (capital city of Antioquia Department) drug trafficker's organization very quickly, but is not considered to be one of Escobar's trusted men.

Escobar escaped from the Envigado jail in Antioquia on 22 July. Since then, police and military forces have carried out an intense search for him, in which a dozen of Escobar's cronies have been killed, 15 have surrendered, and five arrested.

Car dealer Gustavo Munoz Restrepo, another member of the 30- person "Medellin cartel" financial group, was murdered in Medellin in March.

Londono Velasquez was taken to a legal office to fill out paperwork and undergo a routine medical exam. Later authorities will decide if Londono Velasquez is to be transferred to the high security jail in Itagui, 13 km from Medellin, where 19 other cronies of Pablo Escobar are being held.

Bogota TV Reports Surrender

PA0804010193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Another Medellin Cartel member, Fernando Leon Londono Velasquez, alias Neris, surrendered on 7 April. He is accused of being a Pablo Escobar lieutenant and masterminding terrorist attacks. According to the authorities, Neris bought vehicles to prepare car bombs.

In addition, the clandestine organization Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar] denied it has resumed its war to annihilate Escobar, his family, and assistants. Pepes also denied that its members threatened the prosecutor general and the attorney general.

Pepes Vows To Resume Attacks on Pablo Escobar

PA0804031693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Apr 93 pp 1, 12a

[Excerpt] The illegal organization, Persecuted by Pablo Escobar (Pepes), on 4 April accused Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta and Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff of allegedly communicating with Pablo Escobar to grant him special treatment should he surrender.

The serious accusations, in addition to a statement of intent to resume military attacks against Escobar, his friends, and relatives, were made in a communique issued by that organization that was made public on 4 April in Medellin.

The message was sent to Emisoras Caracol Network in Medellin, exactly one month after this group announced it would suspend its operations against Escobar and his friends.

In the communique, the Pepes state that Escobar has continued his criminal actions against Colombian citizens. The message sets out the group's firm willingness to destroy the drug lord and his associates.

The Pepes state that Pablo's life is not guaranteed, even though he may be detained in a Colombian prison. The communique adds: "We resume our struggle against Pablo Escobar and his henchmen. We call on all those who still believe in him to join our forces to destroy this despicable individual, a murderer of children, senior citizens, and innocent people."

In the communique the Pepes declare any person who collaborates or works for Escobar as enemies and warn that "they will be paid with the same token so they may personally experience what many Colombians suffer."

At the end of the communique, the Pepes refer to the alleged endeavors that Escobar is carrying out with some church sectors and other government authorities to surrender again.

In this regard the illegal organization said: "We know that he is attempting to hide behind the priests and the authorities, looking for a reward for his criminal actions, but this will be of no avail."

The Pepes said that even if the drug trafficker surrenders, they will not halt their attacks against his properties and his friends. "Escobar has an outstanding debt with us and the people, and he must pay up," they said. [passage omitted]

Government Minister on Search Efforts, Guerrillas

PA0704171293 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Report by Raul Gutierrez; passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Gutierrez] Government Minister Fabio Villegas is one high government official who will not be resting over the Easter holidays. He must face strikes, the guerrillas, and the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [Pepes] group. The government is not sure if the Pepes had anything to do with the murder of two Medellin Cartel lawyers.

[Villegas] "Regarding that incident, I would like to say that the government has stated, as it has done in the past, that it rejects any intention by any person or persons to take justice into their own hands."

[Gutierrez] The search team, therefore, will be looking not only for Pablo Escobar but also for the Pepes.

[Villegas] "The justice system and the security organizations are responsible for capturing those who escaped from the Envigado Prison as well as those who intend to take justice into their own hands."

[Gutierrez] Minister Villegas is convinced that the Army of National Liberation [ELN] wants to turn the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [Ecopetrol] situation into a public issue.

[Villegas] "The conflict is being handled within the parameters of democracy. The other side of the issue, which is what worries us, is the intention of certain subversive organizations to escalate the conflict and turn it into a political conflict."

[Gutierrez] The situation being what it is, the government will not be sitting down to negotiate with the guerrillas for the time being.

[Villegas] "What the government should do is push forward with its policies toward those organizations and continue strengthening the public forces and justice, seeking greater support from the community. Such policies have already shown positive results. "

[Gutierrez] The minister confirmed the capture of (Lionzo), the commander of the 5th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in Caqueta, and an ELN group implicated in the sabotage attacks against Ecopetrol installations in Barranca Bermeja.

Air Traffic Controllers End Strike

PA0804044193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Report by Jose Luis Ramirez]

[Text] The plight of Colombian air transportation users finally ended. After 32 days of negotiations, an agreement was finally signed on 7 April between the air controller's union and the government.

The 283 air traffic controllers agreed to normalize air operations. They decided to work a maximum of 156 hours per month, or 36 hours per week. They also agreed to suspend the strike that had transporters, travelers, and airlines going through chaos.

[Begin recording, air traffic controller's union spokesman Oscar Bravo] Aviation in Colombia and internationally has grown significantly. The air traffic controller's responsibility has naturally increased, but we must have the necessary equipment to carry out this responsibility in a serious and professional manner. That is all we ask. We only want the necessary equipment and the means to guarantee safety. [end recording]

The government, through its Civil Aeronautics Board, has agreed to reorganize existing personnel and to hire 120 new air traffic controllers. The financial hurdle was overcome through a proposal that provides a bonus including overtime, Sundays, holidays, and night differentials. The bonus would be effective 1 January 1994.

Thus, a solution to the labor conflict—resulting in serious financial loses and difficulties to both the airlines and consumers—was finally found.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Confirms Rodriguez To Meet With Menem

PY0704145693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p 15

[Text] Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken has confirmed that President Andres Rodriguez and Argentine President Carlos Menem will meet on 13 April at the Yacyreta hydroelectric dam site. The venue of the meeting was decided on 6 April when it was learned that the Argentine Government had officially promised to close the channel that is diverting the Pilcomayo River. Rodriguez and Menem are expected to sign a joint declaration.

Frutos Vaesken returned on 6 April from Santa Cruz de la Sierra, where he participated in a regular meetings of foreign ministers of the Rio Group. While there, the foreign minister took the opportunity to discuss with [Argentine Foreign Minister Guido] di Tella the diversion of the Pilcomayo River. Frutos Vaesken said he received assurance from the Argentine Government that Paraguayan demands will be met as quickly as possible and that the channel opened on the right bank of the river will be closed. [passage omitted]

Enrique Iglesias, the president of the Inter-American Development Bank may visit the Yacyreta dam site while the two presidents are there.

Amended Electoral Code Articles Approved

PY0704191993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p 7

[Text] Here is a transcription of the articles that modify the Electoral Code as approved yesterday by the Senate. These articles modify the proposal submitted by Colorado Party Deputies Bernardino Cano Radil and Julio Cesar Frutos, and have already been approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

Article 1. Articles 132, 181, 191 Paragraph 2, 193, and 338, Clause F, of the electoral code (Law No. 1/90) are hereby modified. These articles now read as follows:

Article 132: Political parties and movements will receive copies of the electoral lists 30 days before the elections. The lists to be used at the balloting tables must be ready 15 days before the elections date. They must be received by the presidents of the district electoral boards and balloting tables and be placed immediately at the disposal of all interested parties in the respective electoral boards.

Article 181: Each balloting table will have three officials, two of which will be designated by the political parties that obtained the largest number of votes during the most recent national elections. The third will be chosen through a draw of candidates proposed by the other political parties or movements that are participating in the elections. The president and two alternate members will be appointed by a draw that will be overseen by representatives of said political parties and movements.

Article 191: (Second paragraph) 2. The designation will be made through a document authenticated by the central electoral board, which must issue the authorization and return it to the designator within a period of three days. If the Central Electoral Board fails to do so within that period, the authentication is automatic. Each voting place will have two poll watchers and two alternate members for each political party or movement which has participating candidates, and in each electoral district there will be a poll watcher and an alternate member as chief party poll watcher.

Article 193: Every political party or movement that has participating candidates will be able to designate one inspector and an alternate member to each balloting table. The list of poll watchers will be presented to the respective electoral board if it belongs to the corresponding district area; otherwise, they must be submitted to the Central Electoral Board at least seven days before the elections date with an indication of the number of the order in the electoral list of each one of them. The Central, District, or Parochial Electoral Board must verify the conditions of the voter within three days. If this is not done within that period, the proposed inspectors will be automatically approved. The respective poll watcher will provide the inspector with the document that must include: name and surname of the inspector, the number of his identification card, the number of the order on the electoral list, and the number of the table where he will fulfill his role, with the date and signature of the poll watcher.

Article 338: Clause F). The president and alternate members who do not sign the electoral records of the balloting table where they fulfill their roles. [sentence as published]

Bishops Worried About 'Uncertain' Electoral Atmosphere

PY0704195793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p 9

[Text] The Paraguayan Bishops Conference (CEP) yesterday released a communique expressing its concern over the "uncertain atmosphere in which the election campaign is developing," and has warned that the "public's skepticism" over the electoral process is increasing, given a number of events that are not in keeping with promises of respect for the will of the people and compliance with the law. The Paraguayan bishops urge the public to participate, voting freely and according to their consciences, for the candidate best expressing their personal ideals.

The bishops indicate their awareness of the unique times being experienced by the public, and their message is therefore addressed to all members of the national community, especially to those responsible for establishing better conditions for coexistence.

The document states the bishops' concern over the uncertain atmosphere in which the election campaign is developing, in light of events which are not in keeping with promises of respect for the will of the people and compliance with the laws guaranteeing this.

The document states that the public's skepticism is increasing, and that little good is done for the consolidation of democracy by pronouncements and attitudes that demonstrate a willingness to remain in power or to gain power through bypassing moral and ethical values.

The communique then maintains that it is unacceptable that the public's participation be determined by pressures from all sides, ranging from unrealistic programs and promises to open purchases of voting documents and wills. Public participation is a right and a duty, which deserves real respect from public institutions, from political parties, and from candidates and leaders from the different localities and from all sectors.

The document also notes the bishops' distress that the election campaign often fails to reflect true offerings of projects which take into consideration the real needs of the people, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and in a sincere search for common well-being and the full validity of moral values over sectarian interests and selfishness. The charges and offenses that can be observed do not contribute to a growth in civilized coexistence, states the document.

The bishops' message reiterates general concern for the existing doubts regarding the procedures and intentions of the campaign. It states: This opportunity to consolidate the much wanted democracy should not be wasted; the people's spirit of sacrifice deserves that the leaders give up their personal interests and are generous in seeking the common well-being.

The Catholic bishops urge the public to vote freely and according to their consciences. "This is why the Paraguayan bishops urge the public to participate, voting freely and according to their consciences, for the project which according to their own and mature beliefs best expresses their personal ideals and better responds to the people's needs. The church does not identify itself with any political movement, and reemphasizes its service to all. It exhorts and demands compliance with the national Constitution and with fair laws. It calls on the people to pray during this Easter week and to call on God for the guidance and energy necessary to faithfully comply with their duties."

Finally, the CEP message expresses the bishops' best wishes that this Easter week might mark the beginning of a fairer and more fraternal coexistence, founded on real human and Christian values bringing happiness to those who live in this country. The document is signed by CEP Chairman Monsignor Jorge Livieres Banks and CEP Secretary General Monsignor Celso Yegros Estigarribia.

Military Household Chief Views Rumors of Election Fraud, U.S. Envoy

PY0704211093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Apr 93 p 8

[Interview with Division General Rejis Romero, chief of the Presidency military household, by Hugo Ruiz Olazar; place and date not given—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] General Romero has said that history will consider the current chief of state as the "father of democracy," noting that for the first time in Paraguayan history people will vote in legal, free, clean, and democratic elections. In this interview, Gen. Romero made assurances that Paraguay will have a civil president as of 15 August 1993. He dismissed rumors of fraud, allegedly masterminded by those holding power. He said that he is not engaged in a confrontation with General Lino Oviedo or with U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman. He said that if he goes into retirement, he will open a consulting firm to advise presidents.

[Ruiz Olazar] An obvious question, General, is whether there will be elections on 9 May.

[Romero] The people can rest assured that there will be elections on 9 May and that the Armed Forces will guarantee the cleanness of those elections. We will respect the people's will.

[Ruiz Olazar] PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] member Hermes Saguier said in Montevideo, however, that a great fraud is being prepared with the complicity of those who are in power.

[Romero] We, members of the Armed Forces, feel deep respect for Mr. "Rambo" Saguier. We know that he is a fighter, but I believe that in this country there is no reason at all for any military man to work for fraud. I categorically deny that there is a plan to stage a fraud in the elections.

[Ruiz Olazar] To what do you attribute the charges and statements by opposition party members who claim that there will be fraud favoring the Colorado Party candidate?

[Romero] We are in the middle of an electoral campaign. This is a highly political year. On many ocassions people release inaccurate reports—this could also be done by members of the Armed Forces—with the mere objective of hindering this process, but we will not permit this.

[Ruiz Olazar] What do you think of the presence of foreign observers?

[Romero] Their presence is a guarantee that will calm people. The eyes of the international community will focus on Paraguay through foreign observers. What we are more enthusiastic about is that the greatest leaders of Latin American democracy will be with us: Alfonsin, Sarney, and Sanguinetti—the former presidents of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, respectively—who in 1989 supported President Rodriguez, who did not disappoint them. Their presence reflects the high level of credibility and confidence that their governments have in our process.

[Ruiz Olazar] Why was their presence important in 1989?

[Romero] Their presence was essential. The international community had no confidence at all in our country. They opened the doors of the international community for us.

[Ruiz Olazar] Why did you stage the coup against Stroessner?

[Romero] General Rodriguez expressed the people's demand for freedom, justice, and democracy. Through military surgery he ousted the Stroessnerist regime to begin a democratic process.

[Ruiz Olazar] What do you mean by military surgery?

[Romero] I am referring to the coup on 2 and 3 February. We were aware of the situation. The people were increasingly against the administration of General Stroessner.

[Ruiz Olazar] But up until that time you had been with the former dictator.

[Romero] Yes, but we were aware that it was authoritarian. All of us wanted a change. All of the Armed Forces, without exception, immediately supported the change brought about by the coup.

[Ruiz Olazar] Politicians believe that the coup was a personal matter through which Rodriguez settled accounts with Stroessner. What do you think of this? Is it true that the coup came about becasue Stroessner was about to send Rodriguez into retirement?

[Romero] This comment, which appeared on that occasion, is still circulating. Yet things are different. Both President Rodriguez and those who helped him in the rebellion knew very well that the church, politicians, intellectuals, workers, and peasants had begun taking to the streets to demand respect for their rights, which were trampled on daily. The feeling of solidarity with our people had taken root within us, and we were eager to put an end to those abuses. I do not know whether there was anything personal. I do not know whether there was a plan to send Rodriguez into retirment. That order never passed through my hands. It should be noted that I have been Rodriguez' close assistant for four years. There are comments on the subject, but I don't know...

[Ruiz Olazar] What was the real number of casualties on the day of the coup?

[Romero] The official report says 37 dead and 57 wounded.

[Ruiz Olazar] Rodriguez was the only one who at that time could hit Stroessner.

[Romero] At that time, Gen. Rodriguez had considerable authority and prestige and was respected even by Stroessner. He never permitted the manipulation and abuses from those heavy-handed people who surrounded the former dictator.

[Ruiz Olazar] Why didn't he establish a de facto regime to prepare for the transition?

[Romero] When he called for elections on 1 May 1989, Gen. Rodriguez demonstrated definitively to the local and international public that he does not hold ambitions of power. He also proved that the reason for the coup was to oust a dictatorial and corrupt government.

[Ruiz Olazar] Despite everything, as the transition nears its end criticism is growing stronger.

[Romero] A democratic government should always be criticized.

[Ruiz Olazar] Has Rodriguez made many mistakes, as critics have claimed?

[Romero] I imagine that everyone can make mistakes. Yet on balance we can say that Rodriguez has done well. The point is that people very easily forget the sacrifice, the courage, and the risk to one's own life that are necessary for making some decisions. Many achievements were not properly valued, perhaps because of a lack of information.

[Ruiz Olazar] Has the Colorado Party supported the government?

[Romero] Yes, the Colorado Party has supported the president and will support him to the end of this journey.

[Ruiz Olazar] What will the Armed Forces do at the end of the transition?

[Romero] After 15 August the Armed Forces will continue to operate as a military, obedient, and disciplined institution, without decisionmaking power, in keeping with the Constitution, the law, and with military regulations. They will be engaged in particular in the antinarcotics fight.

[Ruiz Olazar] Won't there be many unemployed people after 15 August? I mean, the number of workers in the Armed Forces has grown excessively after the authoritarian regime.

[Romero] As for the Armed Forces, there has not been and there will not be excessive growth. We have full confidence in the next government and will extend our full support to it.

[Ruiz Olazar] What will Rodriguez do?

[Romero] The Constitution sets forth that a president automatically becomes a senator for life. Gen. Rodriguez has on several occasions told the press that he will devote himself to cattle breeding as his personal business.

[Ruiz Olazar] What is Gen. Rodriguez' future?

[Romero] He is the man who brought us freedom, a state of law, and opportunities for everyone, both for civilians and for those in the military. I believe that Paraguayan political history will consider him the father of Paraguayan democracy.

[Ruiz Olazar] What will you do in the future?

[Romero] Well, I am now the chief of the military household of the Presidency, which is a very high-ranking post for a member of the military. If after 15

August the new president believes that I should continue as such, I will; otherwise, I will retire.

[Ruiz Olazar] And if you are sent into retirement?

[Romero] If I am sent into retirement, I will open a political, economic, and military consulting firm, so that my government house experience may be used by other authorities who assume power. A consulting firm of this type can also render services to investors. I will contract the most skilled and able men, who will be highly reliable and capable.

[Ruiz Olazar] You and Gen. Lino Oviedo are considered the most influential generals. Is there any disagreement between the two of you, as has been said?

[Romero] That is not true. There is no animosity between us. We are friends, comrades, fellow workers in the cause of the revolution. I think both of us are highly loyal to the president.

[Ruiz Olazar] What do you think of Oviedo?

[Romero] He is a dedicated soldier with a lot of initiative and with a great military future.

[Ruiz Olazar] It is said that there is a certain tension between you and U.S. Ambassador Glassman.

[Romero] Your question surprises me. I think we have very good relations. Besides, what would be the reason for that, given that he is a diplomat and I a professional soldier? I will never be the U.S. ambassador, and he will never be the military household chief in Paraguay.

[Ruiz Olazar] Paraguay has had many military governments in the past.

[Romero] There have never been military governments in Paraguayan history, but there have been presidents who were military men on active duty. This is confusing for the public.

[Ruiz Olazar] Anyway, the military have made their mark on the Paraguayan way of life.

[Romero] The Paraguayan people have suffered wars, revolutions, and coups. We have nearly always lived in a military state. We are very militarized, very used to the military in the government. People like to be told what they must do. Those who command also like to do so. That is what we must begin to fight, with democracy.

[Ruiz Olazar] Is that the heritage of Stroessner?

[Romero] It is not a heritage from Stroessner. We have had this attitude since our independence.

[Ruiz Olazar] How was your attitude toward Government House on 3 February [1989]?

[Romero] It was a building that represented a center of corruption, conceit, arrogance, privileges, charges, and haughtiness.

[Ruiz Olazar] Have any members of the former administration remained?

[Romero] Only the honest ones.

[Ruiz Olazar] Why did Conrado Pappalardo, a man who appeared in all the pictures beside Stroessner, continue in the government?

[Romero] His experience in administrating Government House was very important at the moment. That is why the president called him; besides, he was very respected by the staff and was an old friend of the general. He fully complied with his job.

[Ruiz Olazar] During the past four years the Paraguayan people have lived in freedom, but coup rumors have nevertheless been circulating over us, like a black cloud.

[Romero] That is true. There are constant rumors. But there has never been, nor will there ever be a coup attempt. We will not allow the Paraguayan people to be further sacrificed.

[Ruiz Olazar] What is the truth about the Gonzalez Rojas case?

[Romero] The special case of Colonel Gonzalez Rojas, who allegedly raised charges of corruption against certain military officers, is known by the public. The Armed Forces know very well the origins of this matter.

[Ruiz Olazar] What happened in that case?

[Romero] I think that in the not-so-distant future the truth about this renowned case will be made known.

[Ruiz Olazar] What do you think of Laino, Caballero Vargas, and Wasmosy?

[Romero] I would not like to speak about the political personality of the candidates, as we are not allowed to talk about politics, but Laino is a man who has struggled and is an economist. Caballero Vargas is a young businessman, a winner with a very respectable family background and Wasmosy is a very intelligent and prosperous businessman.

[Ruiz Olazar] Which is the best?

[Romero] The vote is secret.

[Ruiz Olazar] It is said that the president was very irritated by the temporary constitutional disposition that prohibits his reelection.

[Romero] It did not affect him at all, because he had promised several times that he would hand over power...

[Ruiz Olazar] Apparently a group of constituents doubted his words. He was a little nervous when seen on television from the balcony at Government House.

[Romero] That day he received expressions of support and solidarity from the people who had come to the Government House gardens. Some people repudiated

the measure, considering it disloyal to the man who brought us our freedom. He was very moved.

[Ruiz Olazar] According to the new Constitution, not even the president's relatives may run for office in the future.

[Romero] I do not agree with that, because I consider that all citizens must be equal before the law. This is discrimination which must some day be struck from the Constitution.

[Ruiz Olazar] Should Argana have been president after the coup?

[Romero] As I far as I know, that possibility was not considered at all. From the beginning we thought that the correct man for that situation was Gen. Rodriguez. We considered him essential. A man with a lot of authority, good temper, morality, and prestige should occupy the post. The times were difficult. He was the only one capable of guiding us to a safe port.

[Ruiz Olazar] What happened between Rodriguez and Argana?

[Romero] They had been old and excellent friends. We regret their estrangement. If they had united they would have done a lot for this process.

Economic Policies of Four Main Parties Outlined

PY0704203093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Apr 93 Economic Supplement pp 4, 5

[Text] Having published the economic policy guidelines of the leading parties that will vie for first place in the upcoming 9 May election, herewith is a postscript that compares some fundamental points of the parties' platforms, in which more similarities than differences can be noted.

National Republican Association (Colorado Party)—Juan Carlos Wasmosy-Angel Roberto Seifart

State Reform
Decentralization, rationalization, and modernization of government and government services to win back taxpayers' support. Establishment of an agency to assess the whole apparatus of government—including intake, management, and retraining of the civil service—and its working methods. This agency will work in coordination with the agency in charge of reducing government spending.

Expeditious privatization of all state-owned enterprises that do not warrant remaining under the government's control, such as LAP [Paraguayan Airlines], Apal [Paraguayan Alcohol Administration], Flomeres [State Merchant Fleet], and Acepar [Paraguayan Steel, Inc.]. Feasibility study on franchise or partial privatization of other state-owned enterprises such a ANDE [National Electric Power Administration], Antelco [National Telecommunications Administration], and Corposana, Inc. [Water and Sanitation Corporation].

Macroeconomic Policy
Balanced budget. Maintain current tax scale at 8.3 percent but curb tax evasion, which is running at 60 percent. Reduction of government spending, establishment of a clear-cut system of priorities, and allocation of government revenues in productive investments. Inflation will be curbed and the value of local currency maintained by means of corrective measures against overvalued guarani and by striking a balance between interest rates, monetary restraint, and revenue sources. A financial system that promotes stability, channels financial flows through productive ventures, and an autonomous Central Bank.

Agricultural Policy
The solution to the unemployment problem should be basically found in an effective land reform. Rational apportioning of land that will be instrumental in making farmers who either do not own property or own a small farm prosperous. Whoever engages in conservation-oriented farming activities will be granted government support and guarantees, as well as legal protection.

Industrial Policy
Legislation now in force will be reviewed/overhauled in order to encourage capital investments and reinvestments at the local level and attract foreign investments by means of more attractive incentives. Industrial development program funded with royalties [preceding word in English] and compensations paid to Itaipu Binational Agency and with the proceeds of privatizations. Maximization of profits derived from the sale of electricity, avoiding subsidized electricity rates.

Labor Policy
The state will guarantee that workers are protected by fair but realistic labor laws. Promotion of better bargaining position for negotiating labor contracts.

Energy Policy
Demand full compliance with the current Itaipu treaty rather renegotiate it. Take maximum advantage of the benefits assigned to Paraguay and the energy surplus in the production field. Use of the funds stemming from the royalties [preceding word in English] and Itaipu compensations to finance land reforms, agriculture, industry, and the infrastructure through a national development fund.

Authentic Radical Liberal Party—Domingo Laino-Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin

State Reform
Elimination of the system of political party clients, the selling of privileges, and the imposition of a party on the Armed Forces. Strengthening democratic institutions like Congress, the electoral tribunal, the ombudsman, the judicial branch, parties, political movements, and

other participatory mechanisms. Simplification, expediency, legality, cleanness, and introduction of modern techniques in government work. Effective decentralization. Training and professional promotion of public servants.

Privatization of public enterprises. The state will provide goods and services only in those social areas in which the private sector does not spontaneously make investments.

Macroeconomic Policy
Macroeconomic balance oriented toward acceptable levels of social justice and environmental preservation. Expenditures will be strictly tied to income, which will be increased by improving the efficiency of tax collecting. Inflation control. Improvement of the savings and credit system through a healthy financial system operating in free competition and with faithful accounting practices, reducing legal reserves and the cost of middlemen's services. The balance of trade and the balance of services will be compensated through the balance of payments, attracting foreign investment and credit.

Farm Policy
Work will be centralized at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in an orderly manner, avoiding the overlapping of tasks and functions. Land reform will be implemented on the basis of illegally acquired land, land that will be purchased, and the fight against unproductive latifundia. Credit support and the elimination of middlemen. Technical assistance for production and sales.

Industrial Policy
The industrial area will be recognized as the most dynamic sector and the most important source of dynamism. Special attention will be given to domestic raw material-processing industries and industries that consume electricity. Promotion of the exportation of industrialized products. Modernization of the transportation infrastructure and simplification of customs procedures. Priority will be given to local products for government purchases. Efforts will be made to prevent monopolistic and speculative practices. Credit will be properly channeled.

Labor Policy
Equitable distribution of the efforts to grow and of the benefits of growth. Tax system for the benefit of workers. State incentives for companies that pay higher salaries and give social benefits to workers. Improvement of social services. Recognition of the workers' right to representation and defense through their unions. Guarantees of union freedom, internal democracy, and activities outside the influence of political parties.

Energy Policy
Renegotiation of the Itaipu dam treaty, demand for the treaty's enforcement, and investigation of the frauds committed. Finishing the Yacyreta dam and incentive for building the Corpus dam project. Promote the profitable use of hydroelectric power, especially in the areas where more jobs can be created. Expansion of the use of hydroelectric power within the framework of an interconnected system in the area of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. A tariff policy that would favor production and social activities. Continuation of alcohol fuel production. Promotion of oil and natural gas exploration and exploitation based on concessions to be negotiated with private companies.

National Encounter Movement—Guillermo Caballero Vargas-Maria Victoria Brusquetti

State Reform
The principle of "as many markets as possible and as much state as necessary." Participation of the state in an adequate, competent, pragmatic, and flexible manner, in accordance with the market system. A market economy supplemented and corrected by an active government. The state must guarantee the growing provision of public goods and services such as health, education infrastructure, citizens' security, and environmental preservation. Strengthening of social organizations.

Seeking to liberate the state from activities that are not proper for it, privatizing state companies that have deficits and are ineffective. This is a pragmatic operation that must be ruled by reasonable principles convincing to the national community, without intending to establish a general rule for all companies.

Macroeconomic Policy
The essential thing is to increase the production of goods and services and to reverse the deceleration of economic growth. This will require increasing the investment level, modernizing the different types of companies scientifically and technologically, and effectively linking them to the international economic system. Workers must be trained, especially the young, rationalizing public expenditures and making the state administration more transparent. We must create a climate of confidence where the rules of the game are clear, both for the worker and the employer. It is also essential to have a tax policy that will promote productive investments and, at the same time, punish speculative activities.

Agrarian Policy
Agrarian reform. Establish prices for the main crops. To facilitate access to credits, to scientific and technological information, the provision of basic elements, and the forms of work that respect the environment. Policy of support to basic crops of farmers with very few options. State support to peasant organizations, urging them to develop trade channels. Technological innovation in the field to increase production, make rational use of the land, and diversify.

Industrial Policy
An industrialization effort is the private sector's central task. The state must contribute by creating favorable conditions, providing basic information, and resolving problems and difficulties that might arise in the field of

competition. Program for the inclusion, dissemination, and adaptation of science and technology. Type of real and stable exchange system, reasonable tariffs, and interest rates that stimulate productive investments. Incentives for nontraditional exports.

Labor Policy
Commitment to create sufficiently paid, productive employment opportunities, as well as to improve the redistribution of wealth. Development of labor relations via agreement and reconciliation of the social actors. Broad social pact. Facilitating the strengthening of unions and federations, eliminating legal and bureaucratic barriers that thwart its growth. Promotion of training. Liberalization and improvement of social security with the gradual inclusion of independent workers.

Energy Policy
To achieve real energy integration, initiating the renegotiation of the Itaipu treaty to include that energy source in the development of the region within the Mercosur framework, improving the defense of national interests in binational entities. Resources generated by that sector must necessarily be invested in infrastructure necessary for the country's development and not in current expenditures. Incentives for the consumption of hydroelectricity. Improving the quality of electricity services. Incentives for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and other mineral resources of the country.

Democratic and Social Coalition—Ricardo Canese and Miguel Angel Montaner

State Reform
Administrative rationalization and moralization. Direct intervention by the state, departments, or municipalities will be supplementary and will only be authorized by law when it is necessary to organize some vital sector that could not be developed efficiently or fairly within a competitive system, or when it is necessary to complement private initiative or ensure the effective and organized participation of workers in economic management. The government will intervene to limit the production or importation of superfluous goods; it will be entitled to control corporations in the economic life and to regulate the simultaneous participation of companies in associations.

The Democratic and Social Coalition will not resort to a neoliberal policy of indiscriminate privatization of public companies, causing unemployment and recessive effects.

Macroeconomic Policy
The Democratic and Social Coalition will establish the appropriate macroeconomic conditions to attain sustained economic growth with social equilibrium through modern and rational monetary, credit, and fiscal policies. It also will implement a progressive financial and economic decentralization and carry out democratic control of public income and expenses. It will transform the country's productive structure by following a social market economy model where public and private activities are not exclusive but complementary. It also will sponsor a vigorous reconversion process without eliminating social benefits for workers.

Agrarian Policy
Strict compliance with Article 115 of the Constitution. The Democratic and Social Coalition will carry out an authentic agrarian reform with the participation of peasant organizations and rural productive cooperatives. Concession of land at reasonable prices, under a social property system; legal limitations on the maximum size of rural property according to regions; expropriation of large unused farmland without any compensation; and promotion of new rural property models. The objective is to create economically competitive and ecologically sustainable productive units.

Industrial Policy
Industrial modernization and the reconversion of capital are an important need. The Democratic and Social Coalition will encourage production and fight speculation. Internal savings will be encouraged so they will serve as a basis for new investments. The use of energy will be facilitated. Despite the abundance of energy, it has become expensive due to the bad agreements and partial use of the installed capacity [of the Itaipu hydroelectric dam] to the detriment of industrialization.

Labor Policy
The Democratic and Social Coalition will combat unemployment and subemployment. It likewise will prioritize workers' rights in the macroeconomic policy, as well as the privatization programs and public administration in general.

Energy Policy
The Democratic and Social Coalition will renegotiate the Itaipu treaty and will investigate the possible frauds that were committed. The use of electricity will be facilitated by lowering its price through a more rational use of the installed capacity. More transmission systems to extend electricity lines to the whole country will be promoted, as well as the creation of industrial centers using electricity.

Peru

Fujimori Sends Message to Ecuadoran President

PA0704194393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] In light of the natural disaster affecting a province in Ecuador, President of the Republic Alberto Fujimori sent a message of solidarity to Sixto Duran-Ballen, president of that brotherly country. The message states that tragedies such as the current one brings mourning to our countries and demonstrates the need to establish dynamic coordination aimed at designing a binational prevention program to enable us to respond to such situations.

Panamanian Extradition Request of Noriega Associate Ruled Inadmissible

PA0804125793 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Panamanian citizen Carlos Wittgreen, a former associate of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, was released on the evening of 7 April. The Criminal Tribunal of the Supreme Court of Justice ruled that the extradition request filed by the Panamanian Government was inadmissible.

[Begin recording] [Defense Attorney Andres Davila] The Wittgreen family has expressed its gratitude to Peruvian justice because this was a purely political issue. It was political persecution against Mr. Wittgreen, who came here to go about his life peacefully and was being persecuted for being a personal friend and almost a cousin of Gen. Noriega's wife. [sentence as heard] We trusted that, above any diplomatic commitment, there would be a commitment to justice, because Mr. Carlos Wittgreen needs to live in peace and quiet with his family. He is a man who has suffered a lot because he has been in the shadow of what Manuel Antonio Noriega was.

[Unidentified reporter] Did the Peruvian Supreme Court turn down the extradition request?

[Davila] That is right. The court issued a resolution, which I have here, denying the extradition and granting freedom. I believe that Mr. Wittgreen will now request political asylum to live in peace here in Peru. He likes this country as he has roots here; his grandparents and relatives are Peruvian. [end recording]

Congress Member Reacts To America's Watch Report

PA0704235493 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Interview with Congresswoman Luz Salgado of the Change-90 Party by Carmen Loly at the Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, building in Lima; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Loly] Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We are talking to Congresswoman Dr. Luz Salgado about the recent criticism by America's Watch of human rights abuses in Peru. Dr. Salgado, what can you say about this recent criticism, especially as it refers to such a touchy issue as human rights abuses?

[Salgado] I am really sorry that a serious institution like America's Watch should call for penalties against our country. Penalties do not affect the administration of President Alberto Fujimori nor the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD], but they do affect 22.5 million Peruvians. If the issue is human rights violations, I would have to ask: If we are referring now to numbers, who are we affecting the most? I feel it is a terrible injustice to ask the U.S. Government to cut all assistance and donations to Peru. In any case, who are they defending? Whose human rights are they defending? We are aware that there are isolated cases of abuse, but they do not constitute an ongoing government policy. Those isolated cases are being investigated. If we analyze them carefully, we notice that most of the cases originated in the previous government. We are also investigating. As I said, there are cases, but they are isolated cases and not systematic human rights abuses practiced by the government. I believe it is a great injustice to call for penalties against an entire country of 22.5 million Peruvians. How many do they expect to benefit—1,000, 4,000? I really do not know.

[Loly] There has been much criticism about the fact that the current Congress has been dragging its feet with respect to launching an investigation into instances of human rights violations reported by nongovernmental organizations. Do you believe Congress is amending its conduct?

[Salgado] As you well know, the CCD, the same as other institutions in the country, has had an internal reorganization crisis. We are currently 175 members in Congress. Previously we were approximately between 2,000 and 3,000 members. We are currently reorganizing and hiring new personnel. Advisers and other qualified personnel are necessary for the congressmen to carry out their responsibilities. The Human Rights Commission has been facing some problems in finding adequate personnel to outline the mechanism of investigation, support, appointments, and so forth. The other commissions are suffering the same dilemma. I believe this will be solved shortly and the commission will be able to carry out the duties and objectives for which it was established.

[Loly] Are all congressmen committed to this objective?

[Salgado] Exactly. It is a very fundamental issue. For the sake of Peru's international image, we cannot allow these sort of allegations to persist. We must set the example so such abuse is not repeated.

[Loly] Dr. Salgado, thank you very much for your comments.

Magistrates To Appoint Nonvoting Supreme Court Members

PA0704184693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Apr 93

[Text] The congressional Constitutional Commission empowered the National Council of Magistrates to appoint the nonvoting members and public prosecutors of the Supreme Court and superior courts with full autonomy from the political branch.

The National Council of the Magistrates will be an autonomous branch formed by nine members representing institutions linked to the judicial activities as follows: two retired Supreme Court justices elected by

the plenum of the Supreme Court; one representative of the Attorney General's Office elected by the Council of Supreme Public Prosecutors from among unemployed or retired magistrates; two representatives from the Lima Bar Association; one representative from the country's other bar associations; one representative from the national universities' law schools; another member elected by private universities' law schools; and a representative from Lima Municipality.

In the last four cases, representatives must be elected by their members, leading teachers, or in council session in accordance with each case.

Their functions are: to ratify all judges and public prosecutors every five years; to supervise with the Supreme Court the operation of the Magistrates Academy; to administrate the evaluation system used for ratifying magistrates; and to issue to the appointed judges and public prosecutors the official titles crediting them as such.

[Begin recording] [Congressman Carlos Ferrero Costa] First, the Council of the Magistrates already existed, but we have improved its structure and given it more independence. We did not create it.

Second, it is true that no organization alone can guarantee that we will have faultless or perfect justice. All we have said is that it is better than what we had before. We have not said this is a miracle. There are no miracles because laws are made for men, and men can change and are always imperfect. This council of magistrates is better primarily because it is more autonomous.

[Congressman Enrique Chirino Soto] This is a historic mistake, a serious, historic mistake, but the majority is driven by a public opinion that is lost regarding this topic. The judicial branch's independence does not depend on the system used for appointments. It depends on a robust society, an agile democracy, and the mechanisms to denounce dishonest officials, not on giving this all- embracing and—I repeat—sovereign authority to a group of men that are not even elected by popular vote. [end recording]

Shining Path Decides To Provide 'National Liberation Army'

PA0804143993 Paris AFP in Spanish 0132 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Lima, 7 Apr (AFP)—Shining Path, the Peruvian guerrilla movement, has decided to provide itself with "a national liberation army" that will be its "primary form of organization." The movement's mouthpiece, EL DIARIO, reiterated on 7 April that its sole leader is Abimael Guzman, even though he is incarcerated.

The Shining Path's Central Committee made that decision when it met "somewhere in Peru" in December, EL DIARIO stated.

The National Counterrevolutionary Directorate had reported the meeting and noted that the central committee, the organization's highest body, is made up of 19 persons, mostly women.

EL DIARIO added that Shining Path had initiated the first campaign of its sixth military plan "to build toward seizing power" through "the implementation of military actions that will make imperialism (the United States), the upper class, and the journalists shake with fear.

The first campaign is to defend the life of Guzman, "the greatest living Marxist," who is detained at a naval base at El Callao port (near Lima) and to attack President Alberto Fujimori's government.

Shining Path now has "the national liberation army as its main organizational form." That would imply its total militarization, according to some analysts, thereby eliminating the previous duality between political and military commands. They would finally all unite around Guzman.

Carlos Tapia, sociologist and former Socialist deputy, had predicted after Guzman's capture in September that Shining Path would opt for militarization given that its military structure, unlike its political apparatus, has not been dismantled by the police.

Shining Path's militarization would imply, according to some analysts, that the organization would give top priority to armed actions in the Andes and Amazonia, thereby limiting its terrorists attacks in urban areas, particularly in Lima. That is apparently what is happening.

According to Shining Path members, Guzman's capture is "an ill-fated work accident." The organization also believes Guzman was arrested with the CIA's advice, but the government has denied the participation of U.S. services.

Shining Path considers Guzman its irreplaceable "foremost leader" and "symbol of party unity," EL DIA [name as received] stated.

The Police believe that instead of having one leader, Shining Path has opted for a three-person directorate. Two of those individuals have been identified as Teresa Durand de Morote and her nephew, Oscar Ramirez Durand. The third could be Angelica Salas, Ostap Morote, or Julio Cesar Mezzich.

Authorities Seize Coca Paste, Weapons in Huanuco

PA0804004293 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Apr 94

[Text] Police have dealt an overwhelming blow against drug trafficking this year with the seizure of 1,174 kg of basic coca paste—washed and ready for shipment to Colombia. The operation was carried out at a Huanuco Department village, where authorities seized weapons and arrested Segundo Jose Diaz Gomez, who has been charged with drug trafficking.

The drug is worth around $3 million on the European market. Police seized weapons and tools used by the traffickers. The raid occurred on 4 April and involved the Police Narcotics Directorate, headquartered at Santa Lucia Base in Alto Huallaga; the local district attorney; DEA observers; and the Air Force.

Police seized weapons and ammunition, a Kenwood radio, a Suzuki electric generator, one FAL rifle, one machine gun, one Winchester shotgun, one [word indistinct] shotgun, seven grenades, one revolver, nine cartridge pouches, seven hand grenades, 876 assorted rounds of ammunition, and three geographic charts of the Republic of Colombia at Ramal de (Puchana) village, San Pedro de Chonta District, Huanuco Department.

Segundo Jose Diaz Gomez, 25, said during a preliminary investigation that the drug, belonging to the (Champa) Company, was ready for shipment to Colombia.